

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the Japan Patent Office (INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY)

PCT

To: Agent for applicant

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(Implementing Regulation 40 bis)
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 24. 5. 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

F631PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/001418

International filing date (day/month/year)

01. 02. 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

27. 02. 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) Int. Cl⁷ H01G 4/12 H01G 4/252 H01G 4/30

Applicant

Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220

Date of completion of this opinion

10. 05. 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/001418

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purpose of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/001418

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>5, 7-9, 11</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-4, 6, 10</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>7-9</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-6, 10, 11</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>Document 1: JP 8-97075 A (Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.) April 12, 1996; all pages; Fig. 1</p> <p>Document 2: JP 8-203770 A (Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.) August 9, 1996; Paragraphs [0010]-[0025]; Fig. 1</p> <p>Document 3: JP 8-37127 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) February 6, 1996; Claim 4; Paragraph [0014]; Figs. 1-3</p> <p>Document 4: JP 2001-200163 A (Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd.) July 24, 2001; Claims</p>			
<p>• Claims 1-6, 10, and 11</p> <p>Document 1 discloses a monolithic ceramic electronic component and a method for manufacturing such a component. The monolithic ceramic electronic component is manufactured as follows: a conductive paste containing glass is applied onto a ceramic sintered body, small pieces of silver foil are bonded to the conductive paste, a first electrode layer (corresponding to "the sintered electrode layer") and a silver foil-bonded layer lying thereover are formed by baking the resulting conductive paste, and a plated Ni layer (corresponding to "the intermediate electroplated layer") and a plated Sn layer are formed on the silver foil-bonded layer in that order.</p> <p>Since the plated Ni layer is formed on the silver foil piece-bonded layer, silver contained in the silver foil-bonded layer is determined to correspond to "the metals acting as seeds" cited in Claims 1 and 6.</p> <p>Accordingly, the invention claimed in Claims 1-4, 6, and 10 lacks novelty and inventive step.</p> <p>Document 2 discloses a monolithic ceramic electronic component and a method for manufacturing such a component. This monolithic ceramic electronic component is manufactured as follows: a first electrode layer (corresponding to "the sintered electrode layer") is formed by applying a conductive paste containing glass onto a ceramic sintered body and then baking the conductive paste, a second electrode layer is formed on a portion thereof using a conductive resin, and a plated Ni layer (corresponding to "the intermediate electroplated layer") and a plated Sn layer are formed over the first and second electrode layers in that order.</p> <p>The use of the conductive resin containing metal powder made of copper (Cu) or tin (Sn) is known as disclosed in Documents 3 and 4.</p> <p>Therefore, those skilled in the art can readily appreciate that the invention claimed in Claims 1-6, 10, and 11 can be made using the above known technique and the conductive resin, disclosed in Document 2, containing metal powder made of tin or the like to manufacture the monolithic ceramic electronic component disclosed in Document 2.</p> <p>Accordingly, the invention claimed in Claims 1-6, 10, and 11 lacks inventive step.</p>			
<p>• Claims 7-9</p> <p>The invention claimed in Claims 7-9 is not disclosed in any of Documents 1-4 and is not therefore obvious to those skilled in the art.</p>			